

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2021-224-C - ORDER NO. 2021-568
AUGUST 13, 2021

IN RE: Petition of MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services for Review of SomosGov Inc.'s Denial of Application for Numbering Resources) ORDER REVERSING) NANPA AND/OR THE) POOLING) ADMINISTRATOR IN) THE COLUMBIA RATE) CENTER
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition of MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services (Verizon Access) for review of the decision by SomosGov, Inc. (Somos), which is the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and/or Pooling Administrator (PA), denying Verizon Access' request for one contiguous Thousand Block of telephone numbers (Thousand Block) in the Columbia, South Carolina rate center. Verizon Access further requests the Commission overturn the denial decision of the PA and further order Somos to assign the requested Thousand Block to Verizon Access. As explained herein, the Commission grants the request of Verizon Access and directs Somos, as the PA, to approve Verizon Access' request by assigning the requested Thousand Block of telephone numbers.

On or about June 30, 2021, Verizon Access submitted a request to the PA, Somos, for the assignment of a Thousand Block in the Columbia rate center. Verizon Access has a customer requesting-numbering resource but Verizon Access does not have 400 consecutive direct inward dialing (DID) numbers in its inventory. The large business customer is Verizon, located at 118

Saint Andrews Road, Columbia, South Carolina (Customer). The Customer is enlarging its technology footprint by expanding its current facilities, and needs additional lines to support its expanding staff and communications needs. The Customer selected Verizon Access as its service provider and requested 400 contiguous DID telephone numbers in the 803 ? (NPA) in the Columbia, South Carolina rate center. The Customer states that it needs contiguous telephone numbers to facilitate its desired dial plan and the assignment of new DIDs.

Because Verizon Access does not have 400 consecutive DID numbers in its inventory, it applied on June 30, 2021, to the PA, Somos, for a Thousand Block in the Columbia, South Carolina rate center. Somos denied Verizon Access' request for additional numbering resources on the same day it was filed. The reason for the denial offered by Somos was that "Verizon Access did not meet one of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) criteria that Somos applies – months-to-exhaust." See Petition, p. 2. ¶ 4. Somos refused the request because Verizon Access does not meet the months to exhaust or utilization requirements of the (FCC). 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(4)(B)(iii); 47 C.F.R. §52.15(h). *Id.*, See Petition, Exhibit 3 (The projected months-to-exhaust was calculated at 41.665, higher than the 6-month criterion Somos applies).

Numbering determinations are made by Somos and/or the PA depending on the nature of the numbering request. The FCC's rules addressing these matters, however, generalize responsibilities of Somos and the PA under the heading "Central Office Code Administration,"¹ and the FCC's Orders addressing these matters allow for challenges of determinations by both entities.² Accordingly, this Petition addresses the determination described herein and asks the

¹ See, e.g., 47 C.F.R. §52.15.

² See Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96- 98 and CC Docket No. 99-200, Numbering Resource Optimization; etc., 17 FCC Rcd 252, ¶61 (2001) ("Third NRO Order")

Commission to direct Somos and/or the PA to provide the requested relief to the extent it is within the respective authority and responsibility of Somos and/or the PA to do so. The refusal to grant numbering resources sufficient to meet the needs of this customer is inconsistent with the FCC's position that "(u)nder no circumstances should consumers be precluded from receiving telecommunications services of their choice from providers of their choice for want of numbering resources."³ However, under 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(5), a "state commission . . . may overturn the NANPA's [Somos'] decision to withhold numbering resources from the carrier based on its determination that the carrier has demonstrated a verifiable need for numbering resources and has exhausted all other available remedies."

We find and conclude that the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, as the regulator of the rates and service of telecommunications companies pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-200 et seq., is the state commission with authority to review a decision by Somos denying a request for numbering resources as allowed by 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(5). Based on the information provided above, we further find and conclude that Verizon Access has demonstrated a verifiable need for the numbering resources. Lastly, since an appeal to this state Commission is the only means to affect its request, we find and conclude that Verizon Access has exhausted all available remedies.

Based upon a review of the matters asserted in the present Petition, the Commission is of the opinion that the relief sought by Verizon Access should be approved.

³ Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-98 and CC Docket No. 99-200, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 99-200, Numbering Resource Optimization, 16 FCC Rcd 306 at ¶61 (2000).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

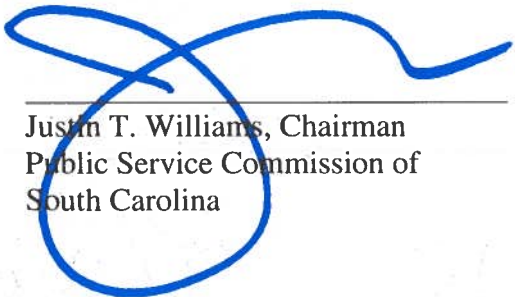
1. The decision by Somos, as the Pooling Administrator, dated June 30, 2021, which denied the request of Verizon Access for additional numbering resources in the Columbia rate center is hereby overturned by the Commission as provided by 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(5).

2. Therefore, based on the foregoing, we hold that Somos/PA is directed to approve Verizon Access' request for additional numbering resources and further directed to assign a Thousand Block in the 803 NPA in the Columbia rate center as requested by Verizon Access.

3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:




Justin T. Williams, Chairman
Public Service Commission of
South Carolina